

code and an analysis of the available facilities for implementing the research recommendations.

3. Concerning the time frame, as indicated in the response to question no. 2, the Advisory Committee and the Government will be working as quickly as possible to ensure minimum delay in the implementation of Mr. Justice Grange's Report. As well, the Advisory Committee will remain together during the period of implementation in order to monitor and appraise progress of implementation and to report thereon to the Minister.

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have an answer to the question of which Senator Asselin gave notice at the last sitting of the Senate. He gave notice that he wanted an explanation from the Leader of the Government, and I quote:

I want to give the Leader of the Government verbal notice of an important question. So I give him notice now that next week I will ask him to make a formal statement on the contradictory statements made in the other place by the Prime Minister and other ministers regarding discussions with the Prime Minister and other ministers of Great Britain about the admissibility of the resolution of the House of Commons and the Senate on the Constitution.

Honourable senators, the answer about the position of the government is that given in the other place—

[English]

Hon. Martial Asselin: On a point of order, last week I gave notice that I was expecting a statement from the Leader of the Government. If a statement is issued, I hope he will send me a copy of it in advance so that I can prepare a reply.

[Translation]

Senator Frith: The answer is that which has been provided; it was the same position as that taken by the Prime Minister, but I can quote from what he said. His statement can be found at page 6822 of the House of Commons Debates for February 3, 1981:

From now on the position I am taking in this House, and I hope my ministers will take the same position, is that the British can speak for themselves. I do not think they need the Tory party in Canada to speak for the British parliament or the British government. As far as we are concerned, we have stated our views. I will not enter into any more cross-questioning about private meetings between our ministers, or between the British Prime Minister and myself.

That is all as far as answers are concerned, Mr. Speaker.

Senator Asselin: I will merely say that this is a biased answer and that I was expecting something different from the government.

[Senator Frith.]

• (2025)

[English]

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

CENTRE BLOCK—SPACE OCCUPIED BY NEWS MEDIA—RENTAL
VALUE

Hon. Jack Marshall: I have a supplementary, honourable senators, with regard to the question by Senator Lang concerning the space occupied by the press.

Since the taxpayers are paying for the space occupied by the press, I am wondering if there is a contract between the government and the press as to the responsibilities of the latter. Do they have a responsibility with regard to what they will cover on a parliamentary basis, rather than on a House of Commons basis? Is there another side to the contract? I wonder if there has been any investigation done with regard to comparable space paid for by the government that is not being used. Was the figure that the Deputy Leader gave us \$7.25?

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the figure was \$7.75.

Could I have some clarification as to what the honourable Senator Marshall means by "what they should cover"? Does he mean what floor space they should cover?

Senator Marshall: Honourable senators, I was referring to the duties and responsibilities they have, in exchange for the free space they occupy on a parliamentary basis.

Senator Frith: The honourable senator will remember that the question itself sets out what is expected in exchange for that space. I doubt that there would be any contract limiting the subjects they could cover. If there is any such provision I will certainly let the Senate know about it. I would be surprised, however, if he is talking about subjects the press could cover. I doubt if there would be such a contract. However, as I say, I will try to find out.

Senator Marshall: I am wondering what their responsibilities are in exchange for that free space. I want to know why they have free space in Parliament, and whether there is another side to the contract in terms of the responsibilities they are expected to fulfil in exchange for that space.

Senator Frith: The Honourable Senator Marshall will remember that the answer says:

—it is understood that the media have been provided with this space and location to enable them to supply the Canadian public with immediate, efficient and factual reporting of the news;—

That is all the information I have.

Do I understand that Senator Marshall wants to know what the source of that is, whether it is contractual, and whether there is more detail than is furnished in this answer?

Senator Marshall: My point is that the press are certainly not telling the public about everything that goes on in Parliament. They may be telling them about what goes on at one end of the building, but certainly not at both ends.